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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF: Priestley et al
CASE NO.: PH-7087-A
SERIAL NO.: Unknown
FILING DATE: December 6, 2001
GROUP NUMBER: 1653
EXAMINER: D. LUKTON
FOR: NOVEL LACTAM INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS NS3
PROTEASE

DATE: December 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND FILING OF A NEW APPLICATION
CLAIMING THE BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120 AND §119(e)

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment and the filing of a Continuation Application herewith is a bona fide attempt by Applicant to respond to the Office action dated June 8, 2001 in pending patent application USSN 09/626,286, filed July 25, 2000. A petition for a three month extension of time is being submitted concomitantly, via facsimile transmission, in pending patent application USSN 09/626,286, thus extending the due time for response in pending patent application USSN 09/626,286 until December 8, 2001, and extending the time for copendency until December 8, 2001. Thus, this filing of a Continuation Application and Preliminary Amendment is timely.

Claims 1-26 are pending.

Prior to examination on the merits please amend the above-identified application as follows without prejudice or waiver.

In the specification, before the first line, please insert:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/626,286, filed July 25, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/145,631, filed July 26, 1999.--


10010184-120601
T0902T "H8T00T"

December 6, 2001

SUMMARY

The Claims of the present invention have been amended to place the application in form for allowance. Reconsideration and rapid allowance of pending Claims 1-26 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dec 6, 2001

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